



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION

Last spring, the New England States produced 795,000 gallons of maple syrup; seven percent below the previous year's production. Nationwide, maple syrup production decreased 11 percent from 2002. Combined, the New England States were responsible for 64 percent of the National production in 2003. The top three producing States nationally were Vermont, Maine, and New York.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is responsible for publishing the official USDA maple production statistics for five New England States (Rhode Island excluded). The annual survey of maple producers is supported by the North American Maple Syrup Council, and the statistics generated are the basis for many decisions made by producers throughout the region.

The success of this program is a credit to the voluntary responses from maple producers in New England and nationwide. Every effort will be made to contact all maple syrup producers selected for this very important project to insure published statistics are timely and accurate. When the tapping season winds down in April, about 2,500 questionnaires will be mailed to New England producers. Those who do not return their forms by mail in May will be contacted from the Concord, New Hampshire office to complete the survey by telephone.

As with all NASS survey work, individual producer information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish State and National estimates.

The National survey results will be available in the **Crop Production Report** from Washington, D.C. on June 11, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. All reports are available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ within minutes of the scheduled release time. The New England field office also publishes the statistics on June 15 in a special **Maple Syrup** release which includes charts, graphs, and comments from producers. The statistics are reprinted in the June issue of the **Ag Review**. The monthly New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/ and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through E-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

For More Information Contact: Angie Considine or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571